

State Representative Darnell T. Brewer

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June Newsletter

Dear Neighbor,

This month began with a busy schedule in Columbus. The House was in session and committees were held to move legislation through before the summer recess. We also passed the state capital budget! In this month's newsletter I will provide details on the funding allocated to Northeast Ohio and District 22.

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month, a time to honor the lives lost to gun violence, support survivors and families, and recommit ourselves to building safer communities. We are in the midst of a crisis. Every day, gun violence is killing Ohioans. Since 2014, at least 7,901 Ohioans have been killed by a firearm. On average, one person is killed by gun violence every five hours in Ohio.

This General Assembly, I have introduced 15 pieces of legislation to prevent gun violence. Including, House Bill 871 which designates June as Gun Violence Awareness Month. But true change happens at the personal level. We must stand together to raise awareness, encourage meaningful conversations, and promote solutions that help prevent violence before it happens. Prevention starts with education, community engagement, responsible firearm storage, conflict resolution, mental health support, and looking out for one another.

This June, for Gun Violence Awareness Month, I ask you to remember those we lost, but also take action. Check in on a loved one, have that difficult conversation, and secure your firearm.

I am proud to be your state representative. I want to hear from you! Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darnell Brewer
State Representative
Ohio House District 22





Capital Budget

This month the state capital budget was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. The biennial budget allocates nearly \$4B for the maintenance, renovation, and construction of state-owned infrastructure, including colleges, universities, school districts, and other community projects.

The capital budget is the mechanism by which the state funds its brick-and-mortar needs. This ranges from the construction and renovation of K-12 public schools and higher education facilities to public works programs and mental health treatment centers, as well as funding local community projects. It includes funding for projects that expand access to healthcare, strengthen local economies, preserve cultural institutions, improve public infrastructure, and enhance quality of life for residents across the region.

With the help of my Northeast Ohio colleagues, we were able to secure over \$22 Million for Cuyahoga County. I am thankful to every organization that has worked with my office to bring state funding back to Northeast Ohio. These investments will contribute to real improvements in our region. I am especially excited to see how these funds will be put to use in District 22, we have been awarded funding to go towards local park improvements, economic development, community health initiatives, and workforce support.

Projects funded in District 22 include:

- \$200K for the City of Maple Heights playground improvements;
- \$150K for the City Garfield Heights Parks and Recreation Project;
- \$100K for the City of Bedford Historic District;
- \$50K for the Historic Shaker Square improvements;
- \$200K for the Providence House Community Healthcare Hub;
- \$100K for the Motivated and Empowered Inc. At Home 4 Me Facility;
- \$100K for the Mill Creek Restoration Project;
- \$100K for the Community Assessment and Treatment Center Services Safety and Security Project.

I will continue to advocate for bringing state funding back to our community.

In June I gave sponsor testimony on House Bill 830, legislation that establishes the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program.

This bill utilizes existing state and federal funding streams through the Division of Criminal Justice Services, allowing Ohio to deploy available resources strategically without creating unnecessary hurdles. Funds can be used for investigative staffing, intelligence tools, cold case investigations, analytics, and proven crime reduction strategies. The Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program also provides targeted funding to improve clearance rates for violent crimes, requiring 20% of grant funding to be used for projects that increase the rate that violent crimes are solved.

Far too many violent crime survivors and families of victims are still waiting for justice. Nationally, clearance rates have been steadily decreasing, and more than 2,500 unsolved murders are listed on the Ohio Attorney General's Cold Case Unit database. Local law enforcement is often understaffed and may not possess the capacity and technology needed to solve these crimes. By providing these necessary resources to our communities, House Bill 830 can bring accountability for offenders and justice for victims.



Rep. Brewer provides sponsor testimony on HB 830.



Rep. Brewer attends a tour of the NASA Glenn Research Center.



The Juneteenth flag is raised at Capitol Square.



Rep. Brewer presents a honorary resolution to state champion, Derion Williams.